John 10:1-3, 7, 9 Amen, Amen, I tell you: Anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the door, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. The one who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. The doorkeeper opens the door for him, and the sheep listen to his voice…..Amen, Amen, I tell you; I am the door for the sheep…I am the door. Whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out and find pasture.

I checked. So far in my life I have preached on this text four separate times. Now I didn’t go back and check the sermons, but in truth, I just don’t remember ever being struck by this idea of a door. Jesus calling himself the “Door” just made my mind reel. I couldn’t get this off of my mind for a few days.

Now in honesty, what mostly brought this about is the new translation that we are using. The NIV doesn’t use the word “door” in this passage but the word “gate.” I am the gate…anyone who does not enter by the gate”…and so forth. The Greek word is one that basically means *“an opening through which someone enters or exits.”* You then translate accordingly. On your sheep pen you would translate “gate” and on your house you would translate “door.” Perhaps the word “door” just strikes me as more fascinating because I perceive that a door is stronger, bigger, and more secure than just a gate.

So when I read our passage for today the idea of the “door” just struck me. Think of all the doors we have in our lives. There are house doors, garage doors, car doors, and elevator doors. There are big doors, little ones, thick ones and thin. There are solid wood doors, steel doors, glass doors, and perhaps the flimsiest, screen doors. Doors can be welcoming when they are opened to us and threatening when they are slammed on us. Doors can keep us out or let us in. Doors can keep us in or let us out. Doors can be things of beauty or things that actually intimidate us. Should I mention that most doors are quite easy to see but there can be secret doors that are hard to find. And on a whole other plain we speak of doors to our heart or our mind or how the doors of wisdom can be opened. Did I cover it all? Wait, that’s right, there was even a famous band called “The Doors.” Seriously I read this passage and I could not stop thinking about doors.

And what I really enjoyed most was sitting down and thinking of how all those doors (with the exception of one) could be used to contemplate and think about Jesus. Because he is the Door. He is the epitome of all doors and what they represent. **“I am the door, said Jesus”** I like what all of this means. Let’s then use that idea as our theme and see what we can learn. **JESUS IS THE DOOR.**

So let’s just start with that simple premise and contemplate exactly what Jesus means when he says he is “the Door.” What is interesting is that as you grasp the point of Jesus saying he is “the Door” then the whole of this text comes alive and speaks deeply to our souls. The simplest premise is that a door is an opening through which you can come in or go out. Isn’t that what Jesus clearly states in his words? Verse 9, **“I am the door. Whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out and find pasture.”** Without a doubt Jesus is making sure we grasp his importance, his central standing in all that he teaches and in all that He is. These words make it clear. You do not enter or exit without Jesus. You do not have what Jesus is offering without Him.

What is Jesus offering? Eternal life and salvation. He has clearly taught that He is the Way, the Truth and the Light. He has explicitly shared that to know him is to know the Father who sent him. He openly declared that his coming is about the kingdom of God, the salvation of souls, and the fulfillment of all that God has said and revealed in his Word. Jesus is that Word. To reject Jesus is to close the door. To reject his Word is to reject his Father and all that the Father is and revealed.

Dig a little more. Adam and Eve brought sin into the world by their disobedience. God the Father had promised a Savior from that sin who would be God himself. This Savior would come and this Savior would be the one sacrifice that would atone for the whole world of sin. Sin was and is the problem that needs to be addressed. Sin needed to be paid for, for such is the fact since God is holy and just. Enter then Jesus, the solution the Father gives. It is clear, the coming of Jesus is about dealing with sin. Jesus is the door!

Jesus becomes the door, the opening to heaven in two ways. First, Jesus lives the perfect life we could not. He obeys perfectly the Law of God with all its ordinances that dictate just what our lives are to be in deeds and in words and yes even in our thoughts. Jesus faced every temptation and yet remained without sin for one purpose: that he might serve as the atoning sacrifice for all of sin.

And second, Jesus paid for sin as the perfect Son of God. That is what Jesus did. That’s the whole point of the cross and his suffering. That’s what is behind his cry of agony and declaration of abandonment by God! All of this so that once all was fully completed Jesus could utter those words so important to hear: **“It is finished.”** The work of salvation was done. Sin had been utterly paid for and God’s righteous justice had been completely met in the redemptive love of Jesus. Jesus died eternally for us. Jesus paid for our sins before His righteous Father. Jesus became the door, the only door that opens the realm of heaven and eternal life.

Now, dear people, we are in the season of Easter. No, it is not about bunnies, candy, flowers and new life. Easter is about the resurrection of Jesus. That this Jesus who died was raised from death back to life, actual, physical life and the fact that this Jesus now lives eternally as our mediating priest. This idea of the mediating priest is exactly the role of Jesus as the door. You get in through Him or you will be kept out by Him. It is all the issue of faith. So yes, Jesus is the door. Jesus is the one who saves. Jesus lets you in and out. You leave the sheep pen in order to go to the pasture. The pasture is where you are fed and watered and taken care of by your Shepherd. The pasture is where your trust and faith in the Shepherd is absolute and you know He is only giving you the best pasture and the quietest waters for your good and life. I also want you to pause a moment and think of all the sheep who go to pasture and then work hard to not follow the Shepherd, even to hide from the Shepherd.

All of this and more is what is being spoken of as Jesus calls himself the door. But let’s back up a moment and speak of the very first section of our verses for today. Look at verses 1-6. **“Amen, Amen, I tell you: Anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the door, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. 2The one who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. 3The doorkeeper opens the door for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4When he has brought out all his own sheep, he walks ahead of them. The sheep follow him because they know his voice. 5They will never follow a stranger, but will run away from him, because they do not know the voice of strangers.” 6Jesus used this illustration in speaking to the people, but they did not understand what he was telling them.”**

A little background is needed here. In the previous chapters, Jesus had healed the man blind from birth. This blind man had been hauled before the religious authorities and relentlessly question about what had happened and who did it, because the miracle had occurred on a Sabbath day. They question the man, his parents, and were total scoundrels in trying to deny the very obvious fact that Jesus is special and unique and most likely a prophet of God at the very least. They hate Jesus and end up throwing this man out of the synagogue.

At the end of chapter 9 Jesus finds the man and leads him to faith. This man now believes Jesus the Son of God and right then and there he kneels down and worships Jesus. A few of the Pharisees are there, along with Jesus’ disciples, and a crowd of people. The whole dialogue actually starts in John 9:39 where Jesus says, **“For judgment I came into this world, in order that those who do not see will see, and those who do see will become blind.”** The religious leadership just scowls at Jesus and then Jesus turns and addresses everyone. That is the basis and context of our words for today. Jesus is telling them that He is their everything! He is warning them about false teachers and the destruction they bring. But note how verse 6 ends: **“But they did not understand what he was telling them.”** It is then that Jesus continues to speak and teach the people. He will end up telling them he is the door, the Good shepherd and that he and the Father are one. Now, if you don’t understand any of this, then I feel very bad for you because it is a section that shows the absolute importance of Jesus to our souls and lives.

If you would, I will mention this entire section shows the only two reactions you can have toward Jesus. You can be like the once blind man who kneels down and worships Jesus or you can be like the people who tried to stone and arrest Jesus, the reaction of those who do not believe.

Verses 1-6 are about those who are true and those who are false teachers. True teachers are sent and given by the Door. True teachers stick to God’s Word and what it says. They don’t have to bend it or twist it, to excuse it or ignore it. They teach it as God’s Word and God’s truth for the salvation of souls. Notice the false teachers enter by other ways than the door. That means that false teachers don’t teach Jesus and His redemptive work. False teachers don’t believe the Bible to be God’s Word, They don’t believe the Bible true and inerrant in everything it says. False teachers are there for their own good and their own enrichment. Jesus says they are **“thieves and robbers”** and **“A thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy.”**

That seems pretty cut and dried to me! The shepherd you have is either speaking with the voice and authority of Jesus, which is the Word of God or he is not! If he isn’t then why are you following? The shepherd, the pastor of your church in this case, is one who speaks of the wonder and marvel of Jesus. Seriously, are you hearing about what Jesus has done for you? Are you hearing how Jesus paid for your sins and was raised again to show his payment was complete and true? Are you hearing that Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life….the Door of salvation or are you hearing how Jesus just came to show a better way? Is your church about what Jesus has done for you or is your church about what you can now do because of Jesus? Do you know the difference?

When I say, “Do you hear what Jesus has done for you,” I am asking if the message you hear is about Jesus as the Savior from sin. How He lived perfectly for you, how He died and was raised to life and how Jesus now lives and rules over all things for our eternal good? The message is that Jesus is the Savior. Jesus grants eternal life and salvation. Jesus gives forgiveness because He has paid your debt before his Father. Jesus is God. Jesus with his Father, sends the Holy Spirit to call you to faith and give you the gift of eternal life with Him. The emphasis is on Jesus and his gift of forgiveness. Everything flows from this. Your shepherd speaks to you of Jesus and you hear His voice, and follow His ways because that shepherd has behind him the real Shepherd: Jesus and His Word.

Or are you hearing a message of “Jesus in you.” Because of Jesus you can do this or that. Because of Jesus you can love and be joyful and happy. Jesus shows you how to live and be fulfilled. Jesus shows you how to obey and how to give to the Father because that’s what Jesus did. Often the peaching is about being this or that, accomplishing here and there, showing just how much you love Jesus and how you diligently do indeed follow him. A great example of this I heard as I listened to a song that someone had posted on social media. It was a so-called modern Christian song and although the song alluded to the greatness and goodness of God the song was really about how the author followed and put their life into the work of being faithful to God. It was interesting because the song was more about the Christian than about the Christ.

I think the key verses here are verses 9-10. **“I am the door. Whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture. A thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”**

Life, abundant life, namely eternal life and salvation is the message of Jesus. Believe in Jesus. Enter through Jesus, go to pasture through Jesus. He is our strength, hope, confidence and life. He is our door, now and eternally. He is the Door to heaven and all that God grants and gives. He is the only door! Let that sink in. Jesus doesn’t say, “I am one of the doors!” He says, “I am THE DOOR.” In Jesus is our salvation and hope. In Jesus is our forgiveness and eternal life. In Jesus we are led by his Word, his clear plain and simple word for our eternal good and salvation. Jesus is our Door. Please, knock on that door and let Jesus open the wonders of eternal life to you. Amen.